

Empire, and the proposed amendment of Mr. Turriff thereto, and the proposed amendment to the amendment of Mr. Guilbault, resumed from February 26.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Westmorland): Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that no hon. member of this House will join issue with me when I make the statement that the question now under discussion is one of great importance, momentous in its character, and pregnant with influence over the future destinies of this vast country. The more one studies the question, the more one realizes its far-reaching importance, and I quite appreciate the statement of the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. Bennett) that every hon. member of this House should feel constrained to give expression to the faith that is in him with respect to this matter. I am sure that when its character is considered and when we realize the possible consequences of any action we may take at this session of Parliament with respect to the matter, we must concur with the hon. gentleman in the sentiment he conveys to the effect that too much discussion cannot be given to the subject. In view of that fact, I have been somewhat surprised that so few hon. gentlemen opposite have felt constrained to offer any observations with respect to the matter. As regards hon. gentlemen opposite, we have experienced the very stillness of death—the hushed silence that precedes the death either of political parties or of individuals, and that silence is I think indicative of the possibility that there has been an admonition on the part of my right hon. friend to his followers to the effect that they must not enter into the discussion of this matter, for the greater consideration there is given to it the less faith there will be evidenced in the proposition he has brought before the House. I think he has taken to heart the injunction of John Boyle O'Reilly in his rules of the road, when he said: 'be silent and safe, silence never betrays you.' Simonides, we are told, never repented of holding his tongue, but often had spoken, and I have no doubt that that has been and will be the experience of others. I hope that it will not be mine, however, because I feel that this is an important subject, and one that should receive the most careful consideration of the House. As a representative of one of the most important constituencies in eastern Canada, I feel that I should offer some observations and give some evidence of the faith that is in me with regard to the matter. I know that 'many a man's tongue shakes out his master's undoing,' and that Shakespeare, when he made this remark, had in mind those who had accomplished that feat. Possibly there are hon. gentlemen in this

Mr. BORDEN.

House who, upon reflection, will feel that the silence should have been more widespread, and after the attitude taken by the hon. member for Calgary the other afternoon, I am sure hon. gentlemen will agree that there is much more force in Shakespeare's statement in that regard.

It is not my purpose to discuss this question simply from the one standpoint. We have heard much of the British Empire and we have heard more with respect to imperialism. I bow to no one in my appreciation of the greatness of the British Empire, but I think that we are prone in this House, as in this country, to view its greatness and its mighty achievements from one standpoint only. We are led to believe that the greatness of the Empire depends upon the greatness of her fleet and the strength of her army. We are taught in this House that the British Empire would not be what it is to-day if it had not been for its achievements upon land and sea. While I am willing to concede that much of the glory and might and power of England has been the result of her strength not merely upon the sea, but upon the land as well, I am not unmindful of the fact that the greatest glory of England lies in her achievements in art, science and literature. England is known the wide world over not so much for the might of her navy and the achievements of her army as for the position she has taken among the nations of the world with regard to the advance of civilization and the achievement of her sons in the literary world. A nation that can take credit to herself for having produced as many poets and writers as all the rest of the world combined has just reason for pride, and I think it is well for us to realize that if we are to take pride in being associated with such an Empire that pride should not be confined to the achievements on the sea and on the land of her mighty armies and her incomparable fleet. I feel that in this we are forgetful of what we owe to ourselves and of what our fathers have taught us. The civilization of England has planted itself hand in hand with the Bible and its teachings in every corner of the globe. Her advances, her developments, her accomplishments are not confined within the borders of the three islands; evidences of these accomplishments are to be seen everywhere throughout the known and the civilized world. We should emulate her in this regard, and I think that there is a feeling in every section of this country that Canada should not be neglectful of what she owes to herself in the development of the country, in the advancement of the arts and sciences as well as in the cultivation of a true manhood so that she may become indeed the